

MOLTKE'S LIFE.



non, Melkin

MOLTKE

HIS LIFE AND CHARACTER

SKETCHED IN JOURNALS, LETTERS, MEMOIRS,
A NOVEL,
AND AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

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MOL

TRANSLATED
By MARY HERMS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS FROM
DRAWINGS BY MOLTKE;
PORTRAITS, AND FAC-
SIMILE LETTERS

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LONDON
JAMES R. OSGOOD, McILVAINE & CO
45, ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

1892

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EDITOR'S NOTE.

THE nature of the subject of this volume rendered it impossible that the contents should appear as if cast in one mould. This circumstance might be regarded as a defect, but its justification will be found partly in the many-sided character of a long and eventful life, which showed a rich development and a mature perfection of every human faculty, and partly in the fact that for some periods of this life original authorities were lacking. The volume is therefore intended, as was inevitable, to produce its effect by the impression it makes as a whole. Our knowledge of the Field-Marshal must be supplemented from notes regarding his family and his own life, from journals of travels, and records of the many impulses, scientific and artistic, to which his travels gave rise ; further, from an attempt in the region of *Belles Lettres*—the novel of "The Two Friends," in which he, the man of eight-and-twenty, paints himself true to the life ; finally, from the vigorous productions of his old age, with their strivings after the highest truth, which, under the title of "Consolatory Thoughts," form the conclusion of the volume. With these autobiographical notices has been effectively incorporated that which has been said concerning Moltke's

endeavours and performances by those whose duty it was to criticize or report upon them, beginning with the final certificate of the Danish cadet, and the Reminiscences which the father dedicated to the son with a just pride and a presentiment of the great future before him, and ending with the splendid testimonies of royal appreciation and gratitude to which the section on "The Field-Marshal and his Sovereigns" bears witness.

Where documentary evidence fails us, the knowledge of those who were his companions comes in to fill up the gap. To them we owe the description of the "Retirement at Croisau," the calm cheerful evening of the old man's life; to them we owe the character sketch, "Marie Moltke," the portrait of the wife. The festivities on the ninetieth birthday have been described by Captain von Bremen, of the Great General Staff. He had been commissioned by Count von Waldersee, Chief of the General Staff of the Army, to assist in preparing for that celebration, and was the author of the Memoir afterwards distributed.

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